REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of August 15, 2006.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims

are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this First Response, claims 14-31 are pending in this application. The

specification has been amended herein. In addition, claims 1-13 are canceled via the amendments

set forth herein, and claims 14-31 are newly added. It is believed that the foregoing amendments

add no new matter to the present application.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claim 1 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly not being concrete. In

addition, claims 1-13 presently stand rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103 as

allegedly being unpatentable over *Franklin* (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,810) in view of *Conquest* (U.S.

Patent Publication No. 2003/0004737). However, claims 1-13 have been canceled via the

amendments set forth herein, thereby mooting the rejections of these claims. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of claim 1 and the 35 U.S.C. §103

rejections of claim 1-13 be withdrawn.

Claim 14

Claim 14 has been newly added via the amendments set forth herein. Claim 14 reads as follows:

> 14. A system for enabling authorization of billing transactions, comprising:
> a first computing unit interfaced with a network and configured to receive a
> first message comprising a product identifier, the first computing unit configured to
> store an account identifier that identifies a billing account for a user and to store,
> prior to receiving the first message, data that correlates the product identifier with
> the account identifier, the first computing unit configured to retrieve, in response to
> the first message, the account identifier based on the data and the product identifier
> of the first message and to transmit, in response to the first message, the retrieved
> account identifier via the network to a second computing unit thereby enabling the
> second computing unit to bill a commercial transaction to the billing account.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest each of the above features of claim 14. Thus, claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 15-22

Claims 15-22 have been newly added via the amendments set forth herein. Applicants submit that the pending dependent claims 15-22 contain all features of their respective independent claim 14. Since claim 14 should be allowed, as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 15-22 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 23

Claim 23 has been newly added via the amendments set forth herein. Claim 23 reads as

follows:

> 23. A method for enabling authorization of billing transactions, comprising:
> receiving a product identifier;
> storing, prior to the receiving, an account identifier and data, the account
> identifier identifying a billing account of a user, the data correlating the product
> identifier with the account identifier;
> retrieving, in response to the receiving, the account identifier based on the
> data and the received product identifier; and
> transmitting the retrieved account identifier via a network thereby enabling a
> commercial transaction to be billed to the billing account.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest each of the above features

of claim 23. Thus, claim 23 is allowable.
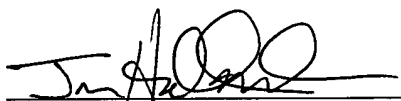
Claims 24-31

Claims 24-31 have been newly added via the amendments set forth herein. Applicants

submit that the pending dependent claims 24-31 contain all features of their respective independent

claim 23. Since claim 23 should be allowed, as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 24-

31 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596,

1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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